



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

“Low-Income Levels” Used for Various Health Professions and Nursing Programs

Authorized in the Public Health Service Act

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: HRSA is updating income levels used to identify a “low-income family” for the purpose of determining eligibility for programs that provide health professions and nursing training to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. These various programs are authorized in the Public Health Service Act. HHS periodically publishes in the **Federal Register**, low-income levels to be used by institutions receiving grants or cooperative agreement awards to determine eligibility for programs providing training for disadvantaged individuals, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, or individuals from low-income families.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Many health professions and nursing grant and cooperative agreement awardees use the low-income levels to determine whether potential program participants are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and would be eligible to participate in the program, as well as to determine the amount of funding individuals receive. Awards are generally made to accredited schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, dentistry, pharmacy, allied health, and nursing; public or private nonprofit schools which offer graduate programs in behavioral health and mental health practice; and other public or private nonprofit health or educational entities to assist individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and disadvantaged students to enter and graduate from health professions and nursing schools. Some programs provide for the repayment of health professions or nursing education loans for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and disadvantaged students.

A “low-income family/household” for programs included in titles III, VII, and VIII of the Public Health Service Act is defined as having an annual income that does not exceed 200 percent of HHS’s poverty guidelines. A family is a group of two or more individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together.

Most HRSA programs use the income of a student’s parent(s) to compute low-income status. However, a “household” may potentially be only one person. Other HRSA programs, depending upon the legislative intent of the program, the programmatic purpose related to income level, as well as the age and circumstances of the participant, will apply these low-income standards to the individual student to determine eligibility, if the student is not listed as a dependent on the tax form of their parent(s). Each program includes the rationale and methodology for determining low-income levels in program funding opportunities or applications.

Low-income levels are adjusted annually based on HHS’s poverty guidelines. HHS’s poverty guidelines are based on poverty thresholds published by the U.S. Census Bureau, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index. The income figures below have been updated to reflect HHS’s 2023 poverty guidelines as published in the **Federal Register** at 88 FR 3424. See <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-01-19/pdf/2023-00885.pdf>.

LOW-INCOME LEVELS BASED ON THE 2023 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48
CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household*	Income Level**
1 . . . . .	.\$29,160
2 . . . . .	.\$39,440
3 . . . . .	.\$49,720
4 . . . . .	.\$60,000

5	\$70,280
6	\$80,560
7	\$90,840
8	\$101,120

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$10,280 for each additional person.

* Includes only dependents listed on Federal income tax forms.

** Adjusted gross income for calendar year 2022.

LOW-INCOME LEVELS BASED ON THE 2023 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR ALASKA

Persons in family/household*	Income Level**
1	\$36,420
2	\$49,280
3	\$62,140
4	\$75,000
5	\$87,860
6	\$100,720
7	\$113,580
8	\$126,440

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$12,860 for each additional person.

* Includes only dependents listed on Federal income tax forms.

** Adjusted gross income for calendar year 2022.

LOW-INCOME LEVELS BASED ON THE 2023 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR HAWAII

Persons in family/household*	Income Level**
1	\$33,540
2	\$45,360
3	\$57,180

4	.....	\$69,000
5	.....	\$80,820
6	.....	\$92,640
7	.....	\$104,460
8	.....	\$116,280

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$11,820 for each additional person.

* Includes only dependents listed on Federal income tax forms.

** Adjusted gross income for calendar year 2022.

Separate poverty guidelines figures for Alaska and Hawaii reflect Office of Economic Opportunity administrative practice beginning in the 1966-1970 period since the U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds do not have separate figures for Alaska and Hawaii. The poverty guidelines are not defined for Puerto Rico or other jurisdictions. Puerto Rico and other jurisdictions shall use income guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia.

Carole Johnson,

Administrator.

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